

## Political and General Miscellany.

### ROYAL VISITORS.

Those of our readers who have been interested in the question, "Have we a Bourbon among us?" may be gratified to know that our city is favoured with the presence of certain representatives of royalty, whose pretensions are much better authenticated, and whose adventures are no less romantic than those of the venerable missionary to the Indians. The following facts are certified to us in a way that entitles them to credit.

About 18 years ago, a young man named Robert Mills, came to this country from the north of Ireland, and settled in Gilboa, Schoharie Co., N. Y. Having a natural fondness for ocean life, he visited Nantucket, and sailed for the Pacific ocean on board a whaling vessel, in the year 1839. He had spent about nine months in the Southern Pacific, when, in pursuing a whale with five of his shipmates, he lost sight of his vessel, night soon came on, and before the dawn of the following day they had drifted so far from the position where they had parted from the vessel, that they despaired of again finding her. Having a compass and a few biscuits in their boat, they determined to reach, if possible, the Marquesas Islands, which they supposed were not more than 200 miles distant. After much labor they succeeded in reaching Oliva-hoa, the largest of the group, containing about 6000 inhabitants, and were kindly received by the natives, and there they remained together about eight months. They kept a constant lookout, in the hope that they might signalize some passing vessel, by which they could escape from the island. Each in his turn repaired to an eminence, which commanded a view of the ocean, and spent the day in watching. At length Mr. Mills, being on duty, had the satisfaction of signalizing to his companions the joyful intelligence that a vessel was in sight. With all haste they made ready their boat, while he hastened down to the shore to embark with them. The natives, comprehending the movement, endeavoured to prevent their departure. The companions of Mr. Mills, however, succeeded in launching their boat, and hastily pushing off from the shore. He was intercepted by the natives, and compelled to remain. With a heavy heart he saw his shipmates slowly receding in the distance, till they disappeared beyond the horizon. He is now a solitary captive, in the hands of the savages, on an unfrequented island, in the vast Pacific. Perhaps years will elapse before a vessel will visit the island, and then he will not probably be permitted to depart. Hope dies within him. He is a prisoner for life.

Gradually, however, he became reconciled to his condition. The natives regarded him as a valuable prize, and treated him with much kindness. He soon formed an attachment to the daughter of the principal Chief, and was united to her in marriage. This alliance with royalty gave him great influence with the natives, and he determined to employ it for the introduction of the customs of civilized life. He acted as mediator between the tribes that were at war, and peace was soon restored. Finding that the island was occasionally visited by whale ships, he explored the principal harbor, and by the proffer of his own services, as pilot, he encouraged commanders of whaling vessels to resort thither for supplies.—Plantains, bananas, bread-fruit, yams, tara, coconuts, and other tropical fruits, which are abundant on the island, became important articles of commerce. A code of regulations was prepared, by which the introduction of intoxicating liquors, and immoral in-

tercourse of foreigners with the natives, were prohibited; and these restrictions were vigorously enforced by Mr. Mills, with the concurrence and aid of the Chief and the people. In one instance twenty-two sailors, who persisted, contrary to the statute, in spending the night on shore, were bound hand and foot, and were released the next morning, on the payment, by the Captain, of two dollars a head for their lodging.

At length the Chief was removed by death, and the son of Mr. Mills, though an infant, became Chief by hereditary right. The influence of the father now became greater than before. Feeling the need of assistance in his efforts to elevate the people, he wrote to the American Missionaries at the Sandwich Islands entreating them to send one of their number, or at least a teacher, to share with him his responsibilities and labors. Whether his letters reached their destination, he does not know. No answer was ever received. He then determined to visit the English settlements of Australia, in the hope of persuading some of the missionaries, or other English families, residing there, to take up their abode on his island. Accordingly, in October, 1853, he took passage, with his wife, for Sydney, which is distant from the Marquesas about 5,000 miles. Failing to accomplish his object here, he proceeded to New Zealand, where he met with no better success. Unwilling to abandon his purpose, he finally resolved to visit the United States—confident that here he would find sympathy and encouragement. After some delay he obtained a passage to Salem, Mass., where he arrived on the 17th of Nov. last.

He has made application to the Prudential Committee of the American Board, to establish a mission on Oliva-hoa; but it is understood that this is rendered impracticable by an understanding which exists with the English Missionary Board, that the American missions shall not extend south of the Equator. He is therefore advised to visit the Sandwich Islands, and lay his application before the Hawaiian Missionary Society, which has already established a mission on Fatahiwa, one of the Marquesan group.

Mr. Mills, with his wife, is now in this city, endeavouring to procure the means of prosecuting his praiseworthy undertaking. His resources, which would have been ample for the journey which he originally contemplated, are exhausted, while his embarrassments and expenditures have been increased by the recent accession to his family of another son of royalty. Their immediate wants have been supplied by several benevolent individuals, and subscriptions to a small amount have been made, to further the important object of his mission.

Mrs. Mills is liberally tattooed in the style royal of her nation, and is altogether an interesting specimen of Polynesian nobility. She is modest, well-behaved, and moderately intelligent, though she has but an imperfect command of the English language.

Mr. Mills, at the suggestion of friends, has visited New-Bedford, Mass., where he found several masters of whaling vessels, who have known him at the Marquesas, and who certify to the truth of the foregoing narrative.—*N. Y. Evan*

**AMETHYST.** This is a precious stone of great value, and one of those that were on the high-priest's breast-plate. It was so called from the superstition that it would cure drunkenness. It means not intoxicated; and it was supposed that if this stone was put into a drunkard's cup that it would cure drunkenness. Hence the name that was applied to it.—*Cumming's Scripture Readings.*